

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM: COLOMBIA - DEMAND
REDUCTION, PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION SECTION

REF: 77 BOGOTA 11750 (PARA II)

1. ALTHOUGH WE SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE
DRUG ABUSE CONTROL PLAN IN COLOMBIA, WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT
THE PROPOSED CONFERENCES ARE THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS
OBJECTIVE. WE BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY THAT A NATIONWIDE CON-
FERENCE COULD BE FOCUSED TIGHTLY ENOUGH TO YIELD A COHERENT
PACKAGE OF IMPLEMENTABLE RECOMMENDATIONS. WE WOULD PREFER
A PROJECT IN WHICH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WOULD INDICATE A
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WILLINGNESS TO INVEST SUBSTANTIAL IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES
BEFORE WE AGREE TO FUND THE LION'S SHARE OF THE DEVELOP-
MENTAL COSTS.

2- A MORE ACCEPTABLE SCENARIO WOULD HAVE THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH SET TARGET DATES FOR THE PREPARATION OF: (1) A
NATIONAL DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION STRATEGY, AND (2) AN IMPE-

MENTATION PLAN FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM AGAINST DRUG ABUSE. IN THIS CONTEXT, ON-SITE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY ONE OR MORE U.S. EXPERTS IN DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION WOULD BE ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE.

3. IN SUMMARY, THE DEPARTMENT IS WILLING TO CONSIDER SUPPORT FOR A PROJECT AIMED AT DEVELOPING A NATIONAL DRUG ABUSE CONTROL PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA. WE WOULD PREFER, HOWEVER, TO SEE SUCH A PROGRAM DEVELOPED IN A SYSTEMATIC MANNER, WITH MORE ASSURANCE OF ULTIMATE IMPLEMENTATION THAN THE PROPOSED SERIES OF CONFERENCES WOULD PROVIDE.

4. DURING RECENT COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND) MEETING IN GENEVA, AG SERRANO APPROACHED UNFDAC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE, BROR REXED, REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF UNFDAC FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM FOR COLOMBIA (SEE GENEVA 2865). THIS PROPOSED PROGRAM WAS FULLY DESCRIBED IN A BOOKLET PREPARED BY THE GOC. CANADIAN CND REP, DON SMITH, ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THIS DISCUSSION AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CANADIAN ASSISTANCE WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT. GIVEN THESE OVERTURES TO UNFDAC AND CANADA, WE URGE THAT USG ASSISTANCE IN DEMAND REDUCTION BE COORDINATED CLOSELY WITH THOSE OF OTHER DONORS. VANCE

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